The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting active ports of a sequencer ~~an electronic device~~, the sequencer ~~electronic device~~ including a plurality of ports including a first port, the method comprising:

~~automatically determining whether an external component is connected to the first port;~~

automatically identifying the first port as an active port in response to a determination that an external component is connected to the first port;

automatically identifying the first port as an inactive port in response to a determination that no external component is connected to the first port; and

~~distinguishing between active ports and inactive ports during control of the plurality of ports~~

sequencing only a first portion of ports of the sequencer which have been identified as active ports.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying the first port as an active port in response to detection of a capacitive load connected to the first port.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying the first port as an active port in response to detection of a resistive load connected to the first port.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying the first port as an active port in response to detection of an inductive load connected to the first port.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said automatic determining includes detecting for a presence of a current flowing through the first port; and

identifying the first port as an active port in response to a determination that a current is flowing through the first port.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising controlling identified active ports of the sequencer ~~electronic device~~.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein the electronic device is a sequencer, and wherein the method further comprises sequencing only identified active ports of the electronic device~~ wherein said sequencing includes activating only the first portion of ports according to a predefined pattern.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the external component is an open circuit.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the external component is a closed circuit.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the external component corresponds to a length of wire.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the external component corresponds to a length of electrolumiscent wire.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the external component corresponds to a light emitting diode.

13. (previously presented) A computer program product, the computer program product including a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein, the computer readable code comprising computer code for implementing the method of claim 1.

14. (currently amended) A method for sequencing selected ports of an electronic device, the electronic device including a first port and a second port, the method comprising:

automatically identifying at least one active port[s] of the electronic device;

wherein said automatically identifying includes automatically determining whether an external load is connected to the at least one active port; and

~~wherein an active port is characterized by a port which has an external load physically connected to it;~~

sequencing only a first portion of ports of the electronic device which have been identified as active ports.

~~sequencing only desired active ports of the electronic device.~~

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

automatically identifying at least one non-active port[s] of the electronic device;

wherein a non-active port is characterized by a port which is not ~~physically~~ electrically connected to an external load; and

ignoring non-active ports in sequencing operations performed by the electronic device.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising automatically identifying ~~the~~ a first port as an active port in response to detection of a capacitive load connected to the first port.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising automatically identifying ~~the~~ a first port as an active port in response to detection of a resistive load connected to the first port.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising automatically identifying ~~the~~ a first port as an active port in response to detection of an inductive load connected to the first port.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said automatic determining includes automatically detecting for a presence of a current flowing through ~~the~~ a first port; and

identifying the first port as an active port in response to a determination that a current is flowing through the first port.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the external load is an open circuit.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the external load is a closed circuit.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the external load corresponds to a length of wire.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the external load corresponds to a length of electrolumiscent wire.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the external load corresponds to a light emitting diode.

25. (previously presented) A computer program product, the computer program product including a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein, the computer readable code comprising computer code for implementing the method of claim 14.

26. (currently amended) A system for detecting active ports of a sequencer, the sequencer including a plurality of ports including a first port, the system comprising:

at least one processor; and

memory;

the system being configured or designed to automatically identify the first port as an active port in response to a determination that an external component is connected to the first port;

the system being further configured or designed to automatically identify the first port as an inactive port in response to a determination that no external component is connected to the first port; and

the system being further configured or designed to sequence only a first portion of ports of the sequencer which have been identified as active ports.

~~A system for detecting active ports of an electronic device, the electronic device including a plurality of ports including a first port, the system comprising:~~

~~at least one processor; and~~

~~memory;~~

~~the system being configured or designed to automatically determine whether an external component is connected to the first port;~~

~~the system being further configured or designed to identify the first port as an active port in response to a determination that an external component is connected to the first port;~~

~~the system being further configured or designed to identify the first port as an inactive port in response to a determination that no external component is connected to the first port; and~~

~~the system being further configured or designed to distinguish between active ports and inactive ports during management of the plurality of ports.~~

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 being further configured or designed identify the first port as an active port in response to detection of a capacitive load connected to the first port.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 being further configured or designed identify the first port as an active port in response to detection of a resistive load connected to the first port.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 being further configured or designed identify the first port as an active port in response to detection of an inductive load connected to the first port.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 being further configured or designed to detect for a presence of a current flowing through the first port; and

the system being further configured or designed to identify the first port as an active port in response to a determination that a current is flowing through the first port.

31. (currently amended) The system of claim 26 being further configured or designed to control identified active ports of the sequencer ~~electronic device~~.

32. (currently amended) The system of claim 26 ~~wherein the electronic device is a sequencer, and wherein the system is further configured or designed to sequence only identified active ports of the electronic device~~ wherein said sequencing includes activating only the first portion of ports according to a predefined pattern.

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the external component is an open circuit.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the external component is a closed circuit.

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the external component corresponds to a length of wire.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the external component corresponds to a length of electrolumiscent wire.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the external component corresponds to a light emitting diode.

38. (currently amended) A sequencing system comprising:

a plurality of ports;

at least one processor;

memory;

the system being configured or designed to automatically identify at least one active port of the plurality of ports;

wherein said automatically identifying includes automatically determining whether an external load is connected to the at least one active port; and

sequencing only a first portion of ports which have been identified as active ports.

~~A sequencing system comprising:~~

~~at least one processor;~~

~~memory; and~~

~~a plurality of ports;~~

~~the sequencing system being configured or designed to automatically identify active ports of the plurality of ports;~~

~~wherein an active port is characterized by a port which has an external component physically connected to it;~~

~~the sequencing system being further configured or designed to sequence only desired active ports.~~

39. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 being further configured or designed to automatically identify at least one non-active port[s];

wherein a non-active port is characterized by a port which is not ~~physically~~ electrically connected to an external component; and

the sequencing system being further configured or designed to ignore non-active ports in sequencing operations performed by the electronic device.

40. (currently amended) The sequencing system of claim 38 being further configured or designed to automatically identify the first port as an active port in response to detection of a capacitive load connected to the first port.

41. (currently amended) The sequencing system of claim 38 being further configured or designed to automatically identify the first port as an active port in response to detection of a resistive load connected to the first port.

42. (currently amended) The sequencing system of claim 38 being further configured or designed to automatically identify the first port as an active port in response to detection of an inductive load connected to the first port.

43. (currently amended) The system of claim 38 being further configured or designed to automatically detect for a presence of a current flowing through the first port; and

the system being further configured or designed to identify the first port as an active port in response to a determination that a current is flowing through the first port.

44. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 wherein the external component is an open circuit.

45. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 wherein the external component is a closed circuit.

46. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 wherein the external component corresponds to a length of wire.

47. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 wherein the external component corresponds to a length of electrolumiscent wire.

48. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 wherein the external component corresponds to a light emitting diode.

49. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 38 further comprising an active port detection circuit configured or designed to automatically identify active ports of the plurality of ports.

50. (previously presented) The sequencing system of claim 49, wherein the active port detection circuit is further configured or designed to store active port information relating to IDs of the identified active ports.

51. (currently amended) The sequencing system of claim 50 further comprising a sequencer which is configured or designed to use the active port information when performing sequencing operations on the plurality of ports to thereby sequence only a selected portion of active ports.~~, wherein the only selected active ports are sequenced.~~